STAR WARS
DARTH VADER
MARVEL
GILLEN
LARROCA
DELGADO
006

Book I, Part VI

VADER

Disorder engulfs the galaxy. After the destruction of the DEATH STAR by a mysterious Force-strong rebel pilot, the Sith Lord DARTH VADER was deemed responsible by his master, Emperor Palpatine. Now pursuing his own agenda, Vader enlisted his own assistance—the bounty hunter BOBA FETT and archaeologist DOCTOR APHRA.

With a newly acquired droid army, Darth Vader stormed a secluded stronghold in the Outer Rim where a technology specialist named Cylo has been secretly working for Palpatine creating lightsaber-wielding cyborgs.

Now in the presence the Emperor himself, Lord Vader must fight for both his honor and his life against Cylo's team of technically enhanced warriors....

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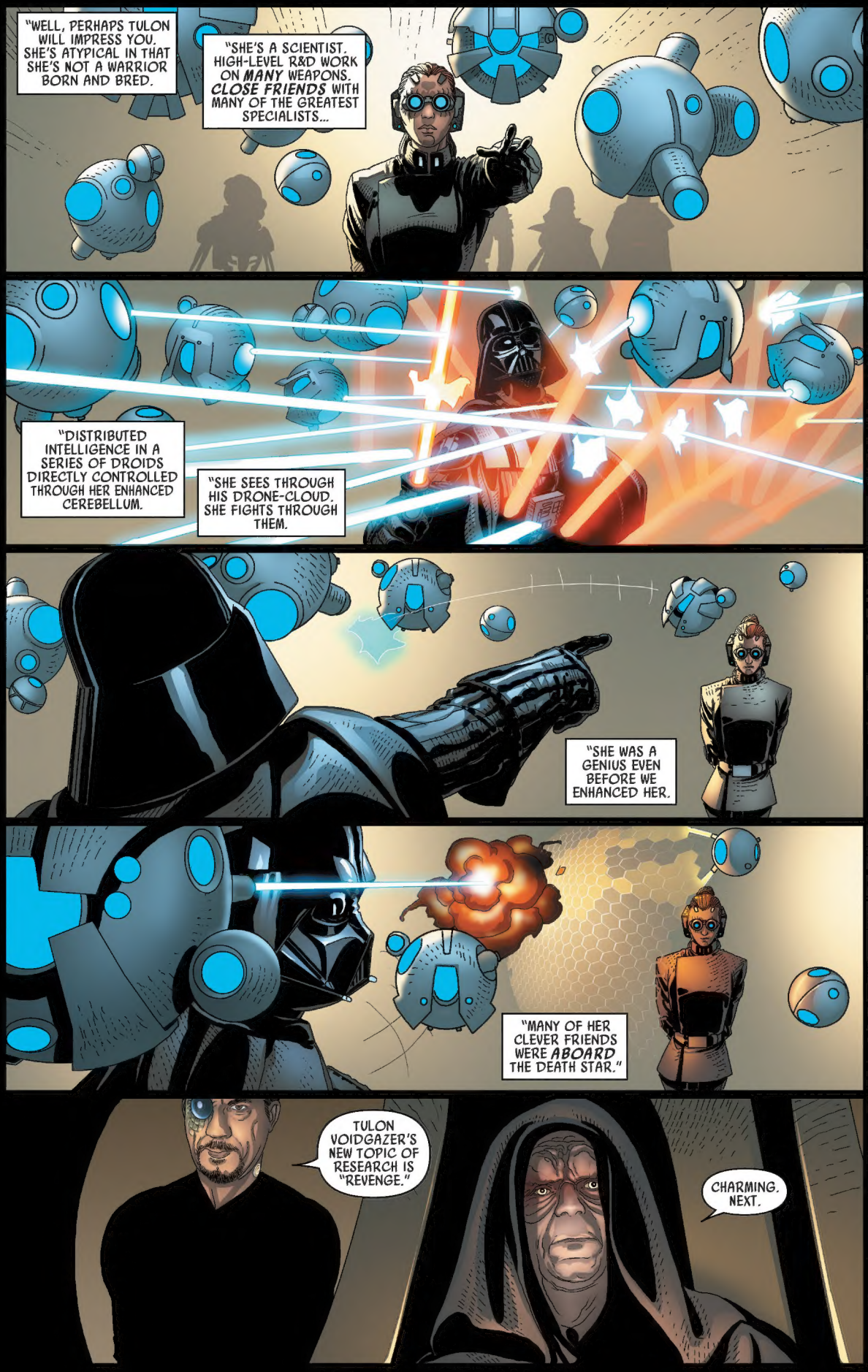
"To Mariano Gonzalez-Roth Voss, friend and fan...you will reach the stars first. The Force was strong with you, but not enough." –Salvador Larroca

"YOU'VE HAD YEARS, CYLO..."
...IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO DISAPPOINT ME.

"OF COURSE, MY EMPEROR.
"THE ASTARTE LINE OF CELANON FUNDED MUCH OF MY EARLY WORK. GENERALLY SMART, FORWARD-FACING.
"THEIR MISTAKE WAS TO BE SECESSIONISTS IN THE CLONE WARS. THE ASTARTE FEARED RETRIBUTION, AND PASSED THEIR CHILDREN TO ME TO USE IN A WAY TO REDEEM THE LINE.
"THEY HAVE BEEN IN MY TENDER CARE EVER SINCE.
"MORIT AND AIOLIN SPENT THEIR FORMATIVE YEARS LEARNING LESSONS WHICH COULD BE ROUGHLY PARAPHRASED AS 'HAIL PALPATINE.'
"THEY'VE HAD THE BEST GENETIC TWEAKS AND COMBAT TRAINING EVER SINCE.
"INTO THEIR PERFECTED FLESH I HAVE PLACED THE VERY FINEST TECHNOLOGY."
THEY WERE ONCE MERE HUMANS. NOW THEY ARE SOMETHING CONSIDERABLY *MORE*.
AND TWINS, SO I HAVE A SPARE.
WHAT ELSE, CYLO?

"THE PROBLEM WITH LIEUTENANTS IS THEIR TENDENCY TO DIE.
"INDIVIDUALS CAN DIE. A SYSTEM IS IMMORTAL.
"WITH THE CYBERANIMATE MODIFICATION WE INSTALLED A 'TRAINER' A.I. PERSONALITY TO GUIDE THE BESTIAL INSTINCTS.
"GUIDE AND CENSOR.
"IT FEELS NOTHING OTHER THAN WHAT YOU DESIRE, MY EMPEROR...
"...CERTAINLY NOTHING AS PETTY AS PAIN."
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE TRANDOSHAN? WE CAN FIND OTHER HOSTS. IT SHOULD WORK ON ANYTHING UP TO AND INCLUDING A RANCOR...
I SEE. NEXT!


"WELL, PERHAPS TULON WILL IMPRESS YOU. SHE'S ATYPICAL IN THAT SHE'S NOT A WARRIOR BORN AND BRED.
"SHE'S A SCIENTIST. HIGH-LEVEL R&D WORK ON MANY WEAPONS. CLOSE FRIENDS WITH MANY OF THE GREATEST SPECIALISTS...
"DISTRIBUTED INTELLIGENCE IN A SERIES OF DROIDS DIRECTLY CONTROLLED THROUGH HER ENHANCED CEREBELLUM.
"SHE SEES THROUGH HIS DRONE-CLOUD. SHE FIGHTS THROUGH THEM.
"SHE WAS A GENIUS EVEN BEFORE WE ENHANCED HER.
"MANY OF HER CLEVER FRIENDS WERE ABOARD THE DEATH STAR."
TULON VOIDGAZER'S NEW TOPIC OF RESEARCH IS "REVENGE."
CHARMING. NEXT.

"THIS IS COMMANDER KARBIN. YOU MAY REMEMBER HIM FROM THE SEPARATIST WAR. HIS SHIP WAS LOST TOWARDS THE END. CONSIDERABLE INJURIES. UNTREATABLE.
"HE SPENT THE LAST EIGHTEEN YEARS ON LIFE SUPPORT.
"HE SPENT THE LAST TWO BEING ENHANCED."
"I WAS A GREAT ADMIRER OF THE LATE GENERAL GRIEVOUS."
"AN INTERESTING DESIGN...
"...BUT VERY MUCH A FIRST STEP."
COMMANDER KARBIN IS THE NEXT.
YES, SO YOU SAY.
LET US HAVE A REAL DEMONSTRATION...

VERY WELL.
TO THE DEATH!
HMM.
GGGGRRROWL!
VERY WELL. YOU FIRST.
GGGGRRROWL!

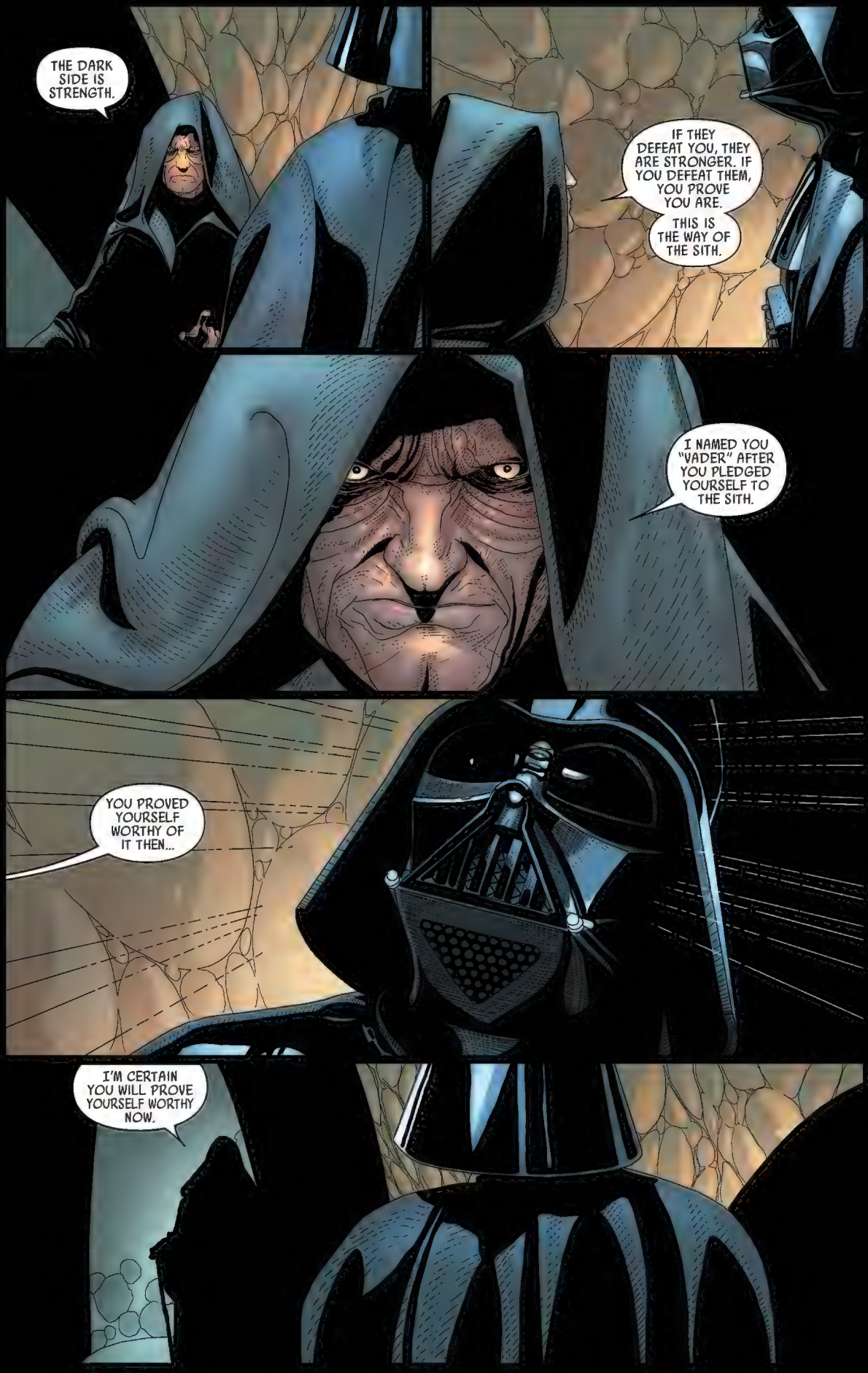
GROOOWWWL!

GRRROOOW--
THAT THINS THE HERD SUFFICIENTLY.
CEASE!

I WILL NOT FORGET WHAT YOU DID HERE TODAY.
DON'T GET SENTIMENTAL.
ONLY REASON I SAVED YOU IS, BECAUSE IN THE LONG TERM, THE OLD MODEL IS LESS OF A THREAT THAN THE NEW.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR MOTIVATION, BOY.
YOU INTERFERED.
THAT LIFE WAS MINE TO TAKE.
ADEQUATE, CYLO.
I THINK I CAN FIND A USE FOR THEM.

YOU WILL STRIKE DOWN ALL THAT OPPOSE US IN THIS HOUR OF CHAOS.
HOWEVER, MAKE NO MISTAKE.
IN THE END, I ONLY NEED ONE OF YOU.
DO NOT SLAY EACH OTHER.
OR, IF YOU DO, ENSURE I DO NOT FIND OUT.
WITH ME, VADER.

I AM IMPRESSED. GATHERING YOUR OWN FORCES. ACTING OUTSIDE MY SYSTEM.
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SUCH INITIATIVE WAS NOW BEYOND YOU. PERHAPS YOU WILL TRIUMPH AGAINST THE OTHERS...
THEY ARE ABOMINATIONS.
THIS IS HERESY.
YOU FORGET WHO IS MASTER AND WHO IS STUDENT.
IT IS YOUR DUTY TO LEARN WHAT I KNOW.
IT IS MY DUTY TO LEARN WHAT THERE IS TO TEACH.
YOU STAND THERE, MORE METAL THAN MAN, AND TALK OF ABOMINATIONS?
WERE IT NOT FOR MY OPEN MIND, YOU WOULD NOT BE HERE. EVERYTHING IS OF THE FORCE.
DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HOW MUCH YOU DISAPPOINTED ME ON MUSTAFAR.
I SAVED YOU--BUT YOU SHOWED HOW FAR OFF THE MARK YOU FELL...
CYLO...HAS BEEN TRAINING THE TWINS FOR 20 YEARS.
ALL THESE YEARS, YOU WERE CONSIDERING REPLACING ME.


THE DARK SIDE IS STRENGTH.
IF THEY DEFEAT YOU, THEY ARE STRONGER. IF YOU DEFEAT THEM, YOU PROVE YOU ARE.
THIS IS THE WAY OF THE SITH.
I NAMED YOU "VADER" AFTER YOU PLEDGED YOURSELF TO THE SITH.
YOU PROVED YOURSELF WORTHY OF IT THEN...
I'M CERTAIN YOU WILL PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY NOW.

WHAT HAPPENED? I WAS TOOLING UP TO COME IN AFTER YOU AND--
SILENCE.
LAUNCH. IMMEDIATELY.
LORD VADER, I--
THIS WOULD NOT BE A GOOD TIME TO BAIT ME, APHRA.
I KNOW.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE OTHER BOUNTY HUNTER, BOBA FETT.
HE CAUGHT UP WITH THE BOY. HE WANTS TO REPORT.

Later.
I LOST HIM.
THAT IS MOST DISAPPOINTING.
HE GOT LUCKY.
DID YOU BRING ME ANYTHING OF VALUE, BOUNTY HUNTER?
NOT MUCH.
JUST HIS NAME.
SKYWALKER.

WE'RE DONE HERE, THEN.
SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAS HAPPENED. I'M... ANI, I'M PREGNANT.
THAT'S... THAT'S WONDERFUL.

WHERE IS PADMÉ? IS SHE SAFE? IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
I'M AFRAID SHE DIED. IT SEEMS IN YOUR ANGER...
...YOU KILLED HER.

SKYWALKER.
THE EMPEROR. NOW.

YES, VADER?
AH...
I SENSE YOUR ANGER. GREAT ANGER. HAVE YOU SOMETHING TO SAY?
SOME PROUD, DEFIANT WORDS?
OR ARE YOU WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW YOUR PLACE?
I AM ANGRY. YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ME OTHERWISE. MY ANGER BROUGHT ME TO YOU.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW-- I WILL NOT FAIL.
AND I UNDERSTAND US PRECISELY.

I HAVE A SON.

HE WILL BE MINE.
IT WILL *ALL* BE MINE.

DARTH VADER

NEXT ISSUE: 7/1/15

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

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